



May 12, 2014

Mr. Arne Duncan
Secretary of Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

I am writing to request a one-year extension of the District of Columbia's ESEA Waiver so DC may continue to implement the ESEA Waiver through the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

DC seeks to extend the flexibility described in this ESEA Waiver request because it has enhanced the ability of the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education (DC OSSE) and the local education agencies to increase the quality of instruction for all students, as well as improve their achievement and attainment rates. Between school year 2011-2012 and school year 2012-2013, DC saw a four percentage point gain in reading and three percentage point gain in Math. This represents the sixth straight year of proficiency gains on the statewide assessment. DC believes that this flexibility has allowed the State and its Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to focus on implementing the Common Core State Standards and providing support, recognition, and interventions to struggling DC public schools.

Extension of DC's ESEA Waiver through the end of the 2014-2015 school year is also in the public interest because the extension supports DC's continued focus on ensuring students graduate college- and career-ready. The extension will also allow DC to maintain a focus on transitioning to PARCC, a next generation assessment, in the 2014-2015 school year.

DC's effective means of consultation and of gathering stakeholder feedback included public presentations; an LEA stakeholder engagement schedule; working sessions with the State Board of Education; and requests public comment via online posting and distributed announcements for the extension request. The LEA stakeholder group included the District of Columbia Public Schools, Public Charter School Board (charter school authorizer)—two primary partners in the implementation of the statewide system of accountability and support.

As part of the extension process, DC proposes changes to its currently approved ESEA flexibility request.





Secretary Duncan
Page 2
May 12, 2013

Attached please find the following documents:

1. A completed amendment request template, reflecting the necessary consultation of stakeholders and describing amendments to the currently approved ESEA Waiver request.
2. Plans for improved implementation and changes necessitated by the Part B monitoring report. Plans include the following:
 - a. Monitoring Plan that demonstrates how DC OSSE will effectively monitor the principles of ESEA flexibility, including building statewide capacity.
 - b. Updated timeline for three years of full implementation in all Priority Schools, which ensures that all Priority Schools are in implementation no later than the 2014-2015 school year; and
 - c. Evidence of DC OSSE's updated template for 2013-2014 state Report Cards that are consistent with USED's February 8, 2013 guidance and Part B monitoring report.
3. A redlined version of DC's currently approved ESEA Waiver request reflecting proposed changes.
4. Any additional evidence or documentation required to support the extension request.

I understand that these enclosures will be reviewed to ensure compliance with the principles and timelines for the ESEA Waiver, and know that you may request supplementary information to inform consideration of this request.

Please contact Iris Bond Gill at iris.bond-gill@dc.gov or 202-340-2905 if you have any questions or need additional information about these proposed amendments and plans.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jesús Aguirre
State Superintendent of Education

